

## Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 CIEP-01

AGR-05 ACDA-05 /072 W

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O 221838Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9828

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, PINT, HO

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON UB SCANDAL

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1573

1. THE PRESS CONTINUED TO REPORT ON UB SCANDAL IN APRIL 22 EDITIONS. THE MAJOR STORY CONCERNED THE REFUSAL OF GENERAL LOPEZ TO ALLOW THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION TO EXAMINE HIS PERSONAL FINANCIAL RECORDS. THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF THE COMMISSION APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGES OF LA PRENSA AND TIEMPO:

"IN THE CITY OF TEGUCIGALPA, CENTRAL DISTRICT, AT 10:30 P.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1975, THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO INFORM THE HONDURAN PUBLIC OF THE

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FOLLOWING:

FIRST: THAT THE COMMISSION, IN ALL ASPECTS OF THEIR WORK, HAS PLACED THEIR CAPACITY, DECISION AND HONOR TO REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BRIBE DENOUNCED BY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL INVOLVING UNITED BRANDS AND WHICH IS CAUSING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE DIGNITY OF THE REPUBLIC;

SECOND: THAT IT HAS COMPLETED THE FIRST PHASE OF ITS WORK HERE IN HONDURAS, AND IN ORDER TO BEGIN THE SECOND PART OF ITS WORK, IT REQUIRED ALL HIGH OFFICIALS INTERVIEWED TO CONFER ON IT A POWER OF ATTORNEY, DULY AUTHENTICATED, TO INVESTIGATE, AMONG OTHER MATTERS THE RESPECTIVE BANK ACCOUNTS IN FOREIGN BANKS AND THUS CONFIRM THE TRUTH OR FALSEHOOD OF THE DENOUNCED BRIBE;

THIRD: THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GENERAL OSWALDO LOPEZ ARELLANO, ALL REQUIRED OFFICIALS HAVE GIVEN THE COMMISSION THE NOTARY INSTRUMENT CONTAINING THE POWER OF ATTORNEY NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT TO INVESTIGATE THEIR RESPECTIVE FOREIGN BANKING ACCOUNTS. THE COMMISSION ATTESTS THAT IT HAS UNFRUITFULLY EXHAUSTED ALL THE NECESSARY MEASURES AT THEIR COMMAND TO OBTAIN THE REFERRED DOCUMENT WHICH IS MISSING:

FOURTH: THAT IT IS CONVINCED THAT THE REQUESTED POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND FORMALLY GIVEN BY THOSE INTERVIEWED, IS INDISPENSABLE TO CONCLUDE THE INVESTIGATION AND REVEAL THE EXISTENCE OF THE BRIBE AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT;

FIFTH: THAT THE LACK OF THE DOCUMENT PROMISED BY THE CHIEF OF STATE LIMITS AND OBSTRUCTS THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. HOWEVER, IN TESTIMONY OF THEIR WILL TO REVEAL THE TRUTH OF THE FACTS THE COMMISSION HAS DECIDED TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO COLLECT AND VERIFY ALL POSSIBLE INFORMATION THAT IS AVAILABLE THERE IN ORDER TO FULLY INFORM THE PEOPLE OF HONDURAS."

SIGNED: ARMANDO AGULUZ, CESAR EL VIR SIERRA, JORGE ARTURO REINA, SERAPIO HERNANDEZ CASTELLANOS, HECTOR ENRIQUE STANTOS, CAMILO RIVERA GIRON, ANDRES VICTOR ARTILE.

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2. COMMENT: THE REFUSAL OF GENERAL LOPEZ TO ALLOW THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION TO EXAMINE HIS PERSONAL FINANCES WAS GENERALLY INTERPRETED AS AN ADMISSION OF GUILT IN THE UB SCANDAL. IT UNDOUBTEDLY WAS A FURTHER FACTOR THAT ENTERED INTO THE DECISION OF THE LT. COLONEL'S GROUP TO REMOVE HIM FROM POWER.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TEGUCI01601  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 TEGUCIGALPA 1573  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 SEP 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS COMMENT ON UB SCANDAL  
**TAGS:** BBAK, PINT, EINV, HO, US, UNITED BRANDS, (LOPEZ ARELLANO, OSWALDO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006